

## NEWS FROM WASHINGTON.

**Passage of the National Militia Bill by the House.**

**Action of the House on the Amendments to the Tax Bill.**

**Aid for Emancipation in Maryland and Missouri.**

**2c. 2c. 2c.**

WASHINGTON, Feb. 25, 1863.

**THE FINANCE BILL.**

The conference committee on the Finance bill has not yet agreed. By their invitation Mr. Chase had an interview with the committee to-day, and stated at length his views and wishes. A letter was also read, written by Mr. H. J. Walker, urging the adoption of the financial scheme of the Secretary of the Treasury. Two sessions of the committee were held to-day without any definite results. It is understood that the Senate committee are determined to adhere firmly to the Senate bill, while Mr. Morrell and Stevens, of the House, are inclined to their resolution to introduce a clause authorizing a large issue of legal tenders.

A proposition was considered to-day to direct the issue of fifty millions of legal tender notes in addition to the hundred millions, specially authorized heretofore, and to provide for the issue of one hundred and fifty millions more of legal tenders at the discretion of the Secretary in case of emergency. This was in addition to the proposition under consideration yesterday, to make the four hundred millions of bonds convertible every six months into legal tenders, and the interest of these payable in legal tender notes.

The impression grows stronger that the Senate bill, without any material alteration, will be agreed upon by the Conference Committee.

**THE RISE IN GOLD.**

The sudden rise of gold in New York yesterday has been viewed here with much astonishment, as no event has occurred, either in or out of Congress, to warrant it. It is attributed entirely to the efforts of speculators.

**AMENDMENTS TO THE TAX LAW.**

The Ways and Means Committee are now occupied chiefly with amendments to the Internal Revenue law. Some of the most important amendments have not yet been reported.

**THE WHIMSY TAX.**

One reason assigned by members of the Committee of Ways and Means for placing an increased tax on whiskey is, that an immense stock was accumulated before the recent revenue tax took effect, and the distilleries have not been run since, consequently no revenue has been derived from that source, but that as soon as the stock on hand is consumed the existing tax of twenty cents per gallon will be found sufficient, and will produce a larger revenue.

**ARRIVAL OF GEN. MCCLELLAN AND STAFF.**

Gen. McClellan, attended by some members of his staff, arrived here this evening, to obey the summons to appear before the Committee on the Conduct of the War.

It is probable that the Committee on the Conduct of the War will report to Congress on important matters before the close of the session. General McClellan will be examined to-morrow.

**THE CASE OF GENERAL McDOWELL.**

The finding of the Commission to investigate the case of General McDowell has not yet been made public, but as his bond to report or die if it failed that the result of the investigation was not unfavorable to him.

**ARMY BREVIET.**

The Senate voted to-day for an act authorizing brevets to army officers for gallant conduct in the field. The opinion is expressed in army circles that the judicious exercise of this power will give wonderful efficiency and vigor to the army.

**PASSAGE OF THE MILITIA BILL IN THE HOUSE.**

The Militia bill passed by the House to-day contains some important provisions affecting the army, as for instance that whenever regiments are reduced to one half the maximum number, the President may direct the consolidation of the companies and the reduction of regimental officers in proportion to the reduction of the number of companies, and that no officers shall be appointed to reduce regiments beyond those necessary for the command of such reduced number. The feature considered most objectionable in this bill, directing deputy provost marshals to report to the provost marshal general all treasonable practices, is stricken out, and several other alterations more or less important are made. This carries the bill back to the Senate for concurrence, and the final fate of the measure is considered somewhat doubtful. Most of the border State men voted against the bill. Mr. Conway, of Kansas, an extreme radical, also voted against it. The democrats used all their efforts to strike out the section which provides exemption from the draft or payment of three hundred dollars.

**THE FIGHTING FORCE OF THE LOYAL STATES.**

It is stated by leading republicans that six or eight hundred thousand men will be required under the Conscription law, and it becomes a matter of interest to us to precise effect upon population. It is estimated at the census office that the number of able-bodied male whites between the ages of twenty and thirty-five, in the loyal States, is in round numbers a million and a half, which number, of course includes the same class who are in the army now and will be discharged from the service in June or July. Thus it will be seen that about every other man will be called into the field. According to all military authorities men of their age will not be subject to much loss from casualties in combat, they will thus present, in connection with the old army, a tremendous and probably irresistible array to the harshest and worn forces of the south.

**ANGLO-AMERICAN STEAMSHIP LINE BETWEEN NEW YORK AND SAN FRANCISCO.**

Secretary Chase has decided that there is no law against the formation of a company of foreign and American capitalists to establish a line of steam—British bottoms—between New York and San Francisco via Panama. As things are, such shippers would carry the gold; and it is said that their capital would not exceed two millions of dollars.

**INDIANS AT THE CAPITOL—THEIR REQUEST FOR GENERAL McCLELLAN.**

A delegation of the Cherokees waited the Capitol and both houses of Congress to-day, in passing through the rotunda their attention was called to a small portrait of General McClellan there. The chieftains all uncovered with profound respect before the portrait of the great military chieftain.

**THE RUSSIAN MISSION.**

The President has nominated Casius M. Clay as Minister to Russia, in the place of Simon Cameron, rejected.

**OUR RELATIONS WITH THE RED MEN.**

The Indian Appropriation bill occupied a great deal of time in the Senate to-day. More of a discussion has been manifested to promote the welfare of the red man, and the interests of the government in connection with him, than has marked any preceding period of our late history. Mr. Doolittle, of Wisconsin, as chairman of the Committee on Indian Affairs, made great use of his influence and ability in this regard. Considerable harm has arisen at the Indian Office from the failure at the last session to make substantial appropriations; but it would seem that care has been taken to make amends. An important vote was that by which the Senate agreed to the general of the Indians in Kansas as the territory south of that state. This disposed of the tribes in question, and is recommended by the Indian Bureau. They are at least the way into the region, because it is now in the possession of the rebels; but once there they are in contact with the semi-civilized Cherokee, and it is considered that the association will be advantageous.

**THE SHOCK INDIANS ON THE WAR PATH.**

The War Department has been notified that the Sioux Indians are making hostile demonstrations over the borders of Indian Territory. Secretary Stanton has ordered General Pope to despatch a force sufficient to quell the red Indians in that quarter.

**LIBERATED NEW MEXICAN INDIANS.**

A resolution of the legislature of New Mexico was presented to the Senate to-day, asking compensation to the owners of six hundred Indian captives about to be liberated by the courts, and the passage of a law to return them to their several tribes.

**THE RISE OF SPECTATORS TO THE CONGRESSIONAL GALLERIES.**

The galleries and corridors of Congress have not been for years so densely thronged with visitors as now. The

evening sessions attract so many more than can find even standing room, and the passages are like the bazaar. There has not for a long time been so much interest manifested by the public in the course of legislation.

**THE PRESIDENT AT THE THEATRE.**

The President last night accepted an invitation from Barney Williams, and engaged a private box at the Grover's theatre, to witness the performance of the comedians, who have for several weeks drawn houses unprecedented in Washington.

**APPOINTMENT CONFIRMED.**

The Senate to-day in executive session confirmed the nomination of Wm. P. Geddes as naval officer at Providence, R. I., in place of Mr. Fisher, resigned.

**THIRTY-SEVENTH CONGRESS.****SENATE.**

WASHINGTON, Feb. 25, 1863.

**PASSAGE OF THE BILL AUTOMATING THE PRESIDENT TO CONFER BREVET RANK.**

Mr. Lane, (rep.) of Ill., moved a bill appropriating fifteen millions in bonds for the abolition of slavery in Missouri.

Misses Hale, (opp.) of Mo., and Vallandigham severally raised a question of order, the latter insisting that the committee could not report a new bill, but only that which was referred to them as amended by the Senate.

The SPEAKER overruled the point.

Mr. Hale spoke from the decision of the chair.

Mr. C. H. Smith, (rep.) of Ill., moved to lay the appeal on the table.

No question voted, and to secure one there was a call of the House.

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Mr. Hale, (rep.) of Wis., presented a memorial from the Legislature of Wisconsin, asking for the reduction of the day on paper.

BRIDGE ACROSS THE OHIO RIVER.

Mr. Davis, (Union) of Ky., introduced a bill to authorize the Covington and Cincinnati Bridge Company to build the bridge across the Ohio river, at a height of not less than one hundred feet above low water mark. Referred to the Committee on Post Offices and Roads.

THE TOLL BILL FOR THE LUMBER TRADE.

Mr. Maynard, (Union) of Tenn., moved a bill authorizing the President to confer brevet rank. Passed.

REDUCTION OF THE BUTT OF PAPE.

Mr. Howe, (rep.) of Wis., presented a memorial from the Legislature of Wisconsin, asking for the reduction of the day on paper.

THE BILL TO AUTOMATE THE COMPTON AND REVENUE ACT.

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